



7/10/26

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about the call to storm the throne of grace in prayer. We took a deeper look at 2 Chronicles 7:14 and the call of God. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Proverbs 31:25-28

I remember many years ago being told that a huge way to overcome bitterness toward someone is to pray for them. I had to prove that one out, first, by trying to prove it wrong. I can be a little dense. Hahaha. I tried to just will myself to like someone, or bug someone until they decided to change... like in the movies when someone makes mic drop moment statement and walks away, and the person realizes how wrong they've been and immediately changes. Yeah... real life doesn't work like that. So... one day I thought, "Maybe I should try this prayer thing that God tells me to do." Honestly, one of the reasons I didn't want to pray for someone I struggled with was that I didn't want to admit to God that I had a problem. But He already knew. Even changing my attitude toward someone is a supernatural gift from the Lord. I need to bring it to Him and ask for His help.

What relationship do we need to pray for more than most? The marriage relationship. It's the relationship that can cause the most damage because it's meant to be the most intimate. It is so easy even to look at the scripture and evaluate the other person's heart with judgment while justifying my own sinful heart. Genuine, humble prayer changes that.

I remember choosing a bunch of scripture to pray for Tim years ago on a particular subject. I was very sure that I was innocent and he needed me to pray for him about these things. I acted as though I stood next to God and together, God and I evaluated Tim and discussed how he really needed my help in prayer. No. That's not how it went. God showed me that HE doesn't need my help. HE knows what's best. And even more than that, God showed me how I was guilty of the very same thing I was seeing as a problem for Tim. The first thing the Lord did was expose my heart and help me to humble myself... and then pray for Tim.

The passages for today are scriptures we can pray for our spouses... and for others. But they're not scriptures that I should be using to accuse my husband or others. Father, please help me to see that I am more like the worst sinner than I am like You and that I need Your mercy in my life before I ever call for You to mercifully change my husband. Please also help me to pray with the right motives... not to change my husband so that my life can be more comfortable, or that he will do a better job of making it all about ME. But help me to pray for him so that he will be more devoted to YOU.

*Prayer for my husband ~
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 ~*

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

Why are these things important to pray for my husband... and for others... and for me? All of these things draw us closer to the Lord, to His goodness, to His holiness.

Be watchful ~ Jesus said to the disciples in Matthew 26:41 on the night of His arrest, after praying "Not My will, but Yours be done" in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." I need to pray for my husband because he, like me, is always in need of God's help. When any one of us think we can handle things apart from the Lord in our own strength, that's when the devil finds his opportunity to prey on our flesh and lure us to fall into the temptation of our selfish desires.

Stand firm in the faith ~ 1 Peter 5:8-9 takes that call to be watchful and explains that we have to be watchful in order to stand firm in our faith. It says, "Be sober-minded; be WATCHFUL. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood (or husbands and wives) throughout the world." I need to watch and pray and be firm in my faith... and know that the devil is also seeking to devour my husband's faith... so pray for his faith to grow... because Isaiah 7:9 says, "If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all!!!" Hebrews 11:6 tells me that it is only through faith that I can please God, and it is only through faith that I will draw near to Him and seek Him. So pray for both my husband and me and others to have sincere faith and stand firm in it.

Act like men ~ Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways." Why is it important to act like men and give up childish ways? Ephesians 4:13-14 gives me the answer. God wants the body of Christ to be built up "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful

schemes." Children are easily swayed. They trust easily, but they don't always have the discernment to know who to trust. As a man (or woman) of God, we are called to have unity of faith... not saying, "MINE" and pushing others away. We are called to truly KNOW God, not just expect Him to meet all our needs without caring about His heart. God wants us to be mature in Christ. "Maturity grows submission" (David Powlison). God wants us to be like Jesus as we follow in His steps. Then we will be firm in our faith and not be bamboozled by the devil, the world, or even our own flesh.

Be strong ~ My strength is not in myself, but in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10 says to "be strong IN THE LORD and in the strength of HIS might." Proverbs 28:26 says, "Whoever trusts in his own mind is a FOOL, but he who walks in wisdom (awe and worship and trust of God) will be delivered." 2 Timothy 2:1 calls us to be strengthened by God's grace, the generosity of His love.

This is an important lesson for me in how I treat my husband. I can't rely on him for my strength. I need to rely on the LORD. And pray for him to find his strength in the Lord as well.

Let everything you do be done in love ~ I don't think I could list all the verses that call me to love as I am loved. But I think one scripture I can pray for my husband (and for me) that captures this call to love is Ephesians 5:1-2. It says, "Therefore (because God has forgiven us through Jesus) be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Let me remember first that God calls my husband "beloved" as He also calls me "beloved." I need to start with the mindset that my husband is loved by God... and then pray for him to walk in that love... the same kind of love Jesus showed by His sacrifice for my sins.

And before I pray for my husband to love like that, I need to look at my own heart. Am I walking in love? Am I accusing my husband of not loving like Jesus loves us while I refuse to love him? O Lord, please help me to consider my own heart before You before I pray these things for my husband. If I don't, I will pray for the wrong reasons. I will pray so that MY kingdom, MY rights, and MY concerns will be bowed to... not so that YOUR kingdom, YOUR rights, and YOUR concerns will be his focus. Please change my heart... and help me to pray for his heart with motives that honor You.

Prayer that my husband can pray for me (and that I can pray for myself) ~

Proverbs 31:25-28 ~

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

This is talking about "an excellent wife." Vs. 30 encapsulates where her excellence comes from.

It is not her beauty or her charm. It doesn't start with what she does. It starts with who she worships. "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." To fear the Lord is to be in awe of Him, to trust Him, to worship Him. He blesses us for fearing Him. This is different than being afraid of Him. Exodus 20:18-21 clearly shows how God wants us to fear Him but not be afraid of Him. In vs. 20, Moses told the Israelites not to be afraid of God but to fear Him. What? Aren't those the same things? No. To fear God (as Moses showed in vs. 21) is to draw near to Him, but to be afraid of Him is to pull away from Him.

So... I can pray for myself to grow in the fear of the Lord and let His opinion of me be what matters the most... not my appearance, not what other people think... but what matters to the Lord.

As I trust and worship the Lord, I can pray (and my husband can pray) that God will clothe me more and more with strength and dignity. Strength... Hmmm... sounds like the Lord wants me to "be strong in the Lord." And dignity... honor. She's clothed with honor. True honor is consistently doing what pleases the Lord, even when it's hard. O Lord, these are royal clothes You want me to wear. Please help me not to settle for anything less than what You want for me.

She laughs at the time to come... Why??? Because she trusts that the Lord is in control. Isaiah 46:8-11 explains that He has declared the end from the beginning. Nothing happens outside of His control. And Psalm 25:10 says that "all His paths are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies." I can pray that I won't fear the future because I completely trust in the Lord who holds the future in His hands.

She opens her mouth with wisdom... What is true, heavenly wisdom? James 3:17 says it's "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." Father, please help me to have this kind of wisdom.

The teaching of kindness is on her tongue... "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:35). An excellent wife who fears the Lord teaches kindness because kindness is in her heart. O Lord, please help me to have a genuinely kind heart.

She looks well to the ways of her household... She considers what's best for her family... not just their physical needs, but their spiritual, emotional, and relational needs as well. Father, please help me to consider the needs of my family. I hear some people say (especially on reality tv shows), "I've always taken care of everyone else. It's time for me to take care of myself." I just don't see that focus in scripture. Father, please help me to trust You to take care of my needs. Help me to find the joy of serving my family, not using my freedom in Christ as an excuse to serve ME. Let me continue to learn to say, "I serve at the pleasure of my King."

She does not eat the bread of idleness... She's not lazy. She works hard and finds joy in doing so. Ecclesiastes 3:13 says that work is a gift from God. She sees the work God has given her to do as an opportunity to honor Him in gratitude for all He's done. This woman is not selfish! O

Lord, please help me to be diligent and faithful to do anything You call me to do.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her... Why? Because this woman loves her family, not just in word or talk, but in deed and in truth. She actively cares for them. She models genuine love to them. Their lives are better for having her in them. Prayerfully, the Lord will use this woman to impact her family's lives so that they're more devoted to the Him. That has eternal value.

O Lord, I pray that You'll make me into this woman... first and foremost, that I'll fear You above all. Please give me discernment to pursue what really matters and wisdom to know how to let go of what doesn't. Before I let myself be caught up in what anything else, please help me to be wholly surrendered to You.